



For Immediate Release:
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Response to Media Requests Regarding documents obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union

The City of Union City has received several media inquiries since late yesterday regarding records obtained from the Immigration and Custom's Enforcement (ICE) Agency by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The documents obtained by the ACLU refer to the exchange of license plate information between ICE and Vigilant Solutions, a national license-plate database and analytical tool used by municipal law enforcement agencies across the region, state and nation. The inquiries we have received are questioning the City of Union City's compliance with SB 54 as it relates to our use of Vigilant Solutions.

First, we want to clear up misinformation that was reported this morning via an online article: <https://techcrunch.com/2019/03/13/ice-license-plates-immigrants/>.

The article contained false information stating:

"When reached, Union City Police Department chief Victor Derting did not comment "

This is not the case as Captain Victor Derting made an attempt to accommodate the author's request for information in a reasonable manner, which is shown through a string of emails and an offer by Captain Derting to take a phone call.

The Police Department takes pride in and values its relationship with the news media. This is most represented in our continuous efforts to respond to every media request that is received in a timely and accurate manner. The Police Department welcomes and encourages the media to send requests for information, especially information that is of value to the community's safety and interest. We will continue to strive to meet your deadlines and fulfill your requests in a timely and accurate manner.

Secondly, media inquiries have been made to members of the City Council, the City Manager's Office and the Police Department regarding the ACLU's obtained documents.

Vigilant Solutions stores and shares license plate information with law enforcement subscribers. The license plate information is obtained from law enforcement agencies and commercial users that deploy Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) and gather license plate information.



The Police Department does not own or operate ALPRs; therefore, there is no license plate information provided to Vigilant Solutions from the Police Department.

The Police Department is a subscriber to Vigilant Solutions, which allows for investigators to access license plate information that can be of value and assist the Police Department with criminal investigations.

We have made a request to Vigilant Solutions to provide further details that may be of value to the media on how they manage their information. We will let the media know when they respond back to us.

To be clear, the Union City Police Department complies with SB 54 and the City's Compassionate City values by not sharing information with ICE. In fact, our commitment to this policy began before SB 54 was law.

In Spring 2017, the Police Department worked in partnership with the Union City Human Relations Commission to develop and sponsor our own Compassionate City Resolution, which was unanimously adopted by the City Council in May 2017. The Compassionate City Resolution is attached to this press release for reference. The Union City Police Department stands firm in our compliance, support and representation of the City's Compassionate City Resolution and SB 54.

We thank the media for their interest in the City of Union City and the Union City Police Department.

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